(d) the quantum of water out of this additional water of these rivers which is being utilised for irrigation and other purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI) : (a) and (b) Water being a State subject, projects to harness the water resources, including flood control and drainage projects, within the States, are investigated, planned, funded and executed by the State Governments according to their own priorities and from their own plan resources. Planning for utilisation of water for agriculture purpose is carried out on quinquinnial basis. Accordingly, the working Groups on Major and Medium Irrigation Programme as well as for the Minor Irrigation Programme constituted by Planning Commission for the Tenth Plan have recommended creation of Irrigation Potential of 19.14 Million hectares at an estimated cost of Rs. 1,44,527 crore during the Tenth Plan Period. However, the actual utilisation of water for irrigated agriculture will depend upon the resources allocated to the Sector during the Tenth Plan. The utilisation also depends on other factors like acquisition of land, obtaining clearance from various central appraising agencies by State Governments, implementation of rehabilitation measures for project affected families pari-passu with the construction, geological conditions etc.

(c) and (d). As per the latest assessment made by the Central Water Commission, the average annual flow in the river systems of India is about 1869 BCM. However, due to topographical, hydrological and environmental constraints, natural evaporation and vegetation losses, the utilisable surface water resources by conventional methods has been assessed as 690 BCM. The replenishable ground water resources are of the order of 432 BCM. The utilisation through surface and ground water in 1997 has been reported as 605 BCM including 501 BCM for irrigation (agriculture).

Dark Mandals in Andhra Pradesh

2420. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are a large number of 'Dark Mandals' in Andhra Pradesh as far as the ground water exploration is concerned;

(b) if so, which are these mandals and what are the reasons therefor;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) what steps are being contemplated by the CGWA to prevent the other areas from becoming dark; and

(d) the extent of area which recorded fall in ground water in the so called Dark Mandals ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI) : (a) and (b) As per information received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh, there are 15 dark mandals in terms of ground water exploitation in the State. A list of dark mandals is given in the statement (*See* below). The reasons for decline in ground water level attribute to the combined effect of over-exploitation and poor/erratic rainfall.

(c) In order to prevent the decline in the levels of ground water, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has taken up recharging measures under Neeru-Meeru Programme since May, 2000. The first phase of this programme is completed. The State Government is also implementing various watershed development programmes.

The Central Ground Water Board has sanctioned 10 proposals for artificial recharge of ground water in the State under its pilot Central Sector Scheme on 'Studies on Artificial Recharge of Ground Water'. The Central Ground Water Authority has also organised mass awareness programmes in the districts of Nalgonda and Mehboobnagar about the need for protection and conservation of ground water.

(d) The extent of area covered by fall in ground water levels in the Dark Mandals of Andhra Pradesh is 3137.15 sq. kilometers.

Statement

List of Dark Mandals

Sl. No.	District	Dark Mandals
1.	Cuddapah	(1) Proddatur
		(2) Vempali
2.	Anantapur	(1) Rolla
		(2) Pargi
		(3) Yadiki
3.	Chittoor	(1) Chandragiri

Sl. No.	District	Dark Mandals	
		(2)	Kammapalli
		(3)	Somala
		(4)	Tirupathi
4.	Guntur	(1)	Tallur
5.	Karimnagar	(1)	Metpalli
6.	Mahaboobnagar	(1)	Midjal
7.	Medak	(1)	Doulathabad
8.	Rangareddy	(1)	Moinabad
9.	West Godavari	(1)	Undrajawaram
	TOTAL :		15

Release of salary to the employees of NPCC

2421. SHRI GAYA SINGH : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the employees of National Projects Construction Corporation (NPCC) have not been paid their salaries for the last few months alongwith arrears so far;

(b) if so, the details of the number of employees working in National Projects Construction Corporation;

(c) the details of the salaries paid from the fund provided by Governments and also from the fund generated by internal resources; and

(d) what steps are being taken to clear the arrears of salaries ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) About 3100 employees are working in National Projects Construction Corporation (NPCC).

(c) A sum of Rs. 10.00 crore has been released this year by the Government to the NPCC as assistance to clear the salary and wages dues from August 2000 to November, 2000 for 2800 employees in non-performing units. The balance 300 employees in performing units are being paid out of the funds generated by internal resources.

(d) A sum of Rs. 4 crore is available in current year's budget for clearing a part of the arrears of salary.